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Attention: The Examiner Lloyd A. Gall

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Re: In re application of United States Patent Application No. 10/018,998
Filed: 12/26/2001
Art Unit: 3676
Inventor/Applicant: Athanasios Leontaridis

RESPONSE TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Your Office Communication of January 23, 2003 is hereby
acknowledged.

EXTENSION OF TIME

A Bank cheque of USD 55,00 is enclosed herewith to claim an
extension of time of one month to respond to this office action.

ELECTION OF THE INVENTION TO BE EXAMINED

The Examiner has required that the applicant elects an invention to
be examined amongst six groups of different species he has considered
the present application to contain.

In compliance with the Examiner's advise as to that the reply to
this requirement to be complete must include an election of the
invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed
(37 CFR 1.143), the applicant hereby states that he wishes the first
species outlined by the Examiner, namely the species of Figs. 3-5 with
corresponding claims 1,3,6,11 and 13 and thereby elects this species

for examination on the merits. The applicant considers claim 1 to be the generic claim. The applicant maintains the right and kindly requests the Examiner to advise as to the type of amendment that needs to be effected on the remaining claims, namely claims 2, 4-5, 7-10 and 12 in order to render them properly dependent on the generic claim, if such is allowed.

REMARKS

The Examiner has stated that the species listed (in the six different groups proposed) do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: NO single inventive concept has yet to be determined.

The applicant wishes to comment that as defined in the generic claim 1, the proposed lock assembly for sliding aluminium doors/windows comprises in combination the following elements:

A hooking mechanism consisting of at least one oblong hook profile 21 sitting upon a center of rotatable connection 27 in the interior of the profile 1 of the sliding panel and including a terminal hooking arm 24 received within a recession 30a or 30b of the facing part 3, a terminal arm 26 for immobilizing the hooking arm 24 in the locked position, a locking mechanism by means of which a locking tongue 33 is moved in a position wherein it immobilizes the terminal arm 26 of the hooking mechanism so as to block extraction of the terminal hooking arm 24 from the recession of the facing part 3 and a spring 20 acting so as to be compressed when the assembly is in the locked position whereas it acts in the direction of extracting the terminal arm 24 of the hooking mechanism from the recession 30a,30b of the facing part as long as such locking is not effected. It is hereby noted that the combination of all above features is necessary for the lock assembly of the invention to operate.

In claim 2 that might be dependent from claim 1, one single hooking mechanism is employed in association with a facing part 3 bearing a single recession 30a, wherein the hooking mechanism and facing part have been made in the manner disclosed in claim 1 with the exception of the locking mechanism that might be a side button 50.

In claim 3 the shape and position of the center of rotatable connection of the hooking mechanism is defined at the end of a surface extending normally in the interior of the sliding profile 1, whilst in claim 4 an independent profile 48 with the same characteristics is alternatively used.

In claim 5 alternative male/female forms of engagement of the hooking mechanism into the connection surface of claims 3 and 4 is claimed.

In claim 6 the form of the facing part 3 with at least one recession 30a for receiving the terminal arm 24 of the hooking mechanism is defined.

In claim 7 the facing part 3 is claimed to being formed with the same characteristics as in above claim 6 but from an independent profile 43 that is connected on the protruding vertically extending part 3 of the frame profile 2.

In claim 8 is claimed the same lock assembly with a pair of hooking mechanisms located on opposite sides of the interior of the sliding profile 1 and engageable into a corresponding pair of recessions of the facing part 3.

In claims 9 and 10 the construction of the locking mechanism is disclosed. It is hereby noted that this locking mechanism is an absolutely necessary part for the lock assembly of the invention to operate, since if not available the lock assembly defined in claims 1-8 will only be capable of automatically effected engagement or disengagement of the hooking

mechanism into the recession of the facing part as the sliding panel moves in the direction of shutting or opening respectively, but it will be unable to produce a locked condition.

In claim 11 the new design of sliding profile portion 1 is being claimed with the characteristic feature of the inclusion of the extending member(s) onto which the hooking mechanism(s) is/are rotatably connected.

In claim 12 the new design of the frame profile portion 2 is being claimed with the characteristic feature of the inclusion of the recessions for receiving the hooking mechanism of the invention.

In claim 13 the entire novel series of sliding aluminium panels including the sliding panel profile of claim 11 and the frame profile of claim 12 is being claimed.

The above are therefore considered to define a single invention with alternative variations in the parts thereof. The Examiner is therefore again kindly asked to propose changes to be effected by the applicant in order to have this invention thoroughly covered by the present application.

Respectfully submitted



Athanasios Leontaridis